



### For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the Gary Development Landfill site, contact one of these EPA team members:

*For technical questions:*

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*For general questions:*

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You may call the EPA toll-free at  
800-621-8531, 9:30 a.m. to  
5:30 p.m., weekdays.

The EPA's regional office is at:  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

### Information repository

A complete file of documents  
regarding the site is at:  
Dubois Public Library  
1835 Broadway  
Gary

### Website

[www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/garyl  
andfill/](http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/garyl<br/>andfill/)

# EPA to Conduct Community Interviews

## Gary Development Landfill Superfund Site

Gary, Indiana

December 2012



*The Gary Development Landfill today.*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants your opinion about cleaning up the Gary Development Landfill site. The EPA will hold interviews with Gary residents from Tuesday, Dec. 11 through Thursday, Dec. 13 at the John F. Kennedy Branch of the Gary Public Library, 3953 Broadway. EPA experts hope to gather information from residents to better understand community concerns about the former landfill.

There are two ways in which you can help:

- **Schedule an interview** by contacting Tracey Koach at 312-443-0550, Ext. 11, or [tkoach@onesullivan.com](mailto:tkoach@onesullivan.com).
- **Share this information** with other interested people or groups.

The EPA will use information from the interviews to develop a Community Involvement Plan that encourages effective communication between EPA and the people of Gary. It tells residents how to attend public meetings and find information about the site. It also describes the site, lists how the community has been involved in the past, and explains public concerns and interests. It also describes scheduled community involvement activities.

### Site background

The Gary Development Landfill site was added to the EPA's National Priorities List in September 2011. Sites on the NPL are the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites that need long-term cleanup. Adding a site to the NPL makes it eligible for financial resources to study the site and develop a cleanup plan.

The 62-acre Gary Development Landfill site is at 479 N. Cline Ave., in a primarily industrial neighborhood. The site is bordered to the north and east by E & J Railway tracks, to the south by the Grand Calumet River and to the west by AMG Resources Corporation. There are wetlands on the southeastern portion of the property along the Grand Calumet River bank.

EPA is trying to identify local parties that might be responsible for the contamination. For sites without a viable responsible party, EPA investigates the contamination fully before starting any significant cleanup.

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## Site history

A sanitary waste landfill operated on the now-abandoned site from approximately 1975 to 1989. The landfill accepted unauthorized hazardous waste including volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos and pesticides, in addition to household waste.

Contaminants from the site have been found in a nearby wetland that is home to several bird species – such as the marsh wren – that the state considers to be endangered.

The landfill has no proper liners, no engineered cover and no functioning surface water run-on or runoff management systems in place. The company that owned the landfill is no longer in business.

## Response activities

The first legal actions were taken against the landfill operator in 1986 for violating the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. A legal agreement was reached in 1996 that included a fine and establishment of a trust for maintenance of the landfill. As estimated costs for maintaining the landfill greatly exceed that of the trust, EPA's Superfund program took over responsibility for the site in 1997.

In 2002, EPA did an emergency cleanup at the site, removing numerous containers of substances including oils, paint, insecticides, antifreeze and electrical capacitors.

In April 2005, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) found elevated levels of metals, semi-volatile organic compounds and pesticides in samples taken in the wetland areas. In May 2009, IDEM took more sediment samples in wetland areas adjacent to and upstream of the landfill. The results showed concentrations of metals, semi-volatile organic compounds and pesticides more than three times greater than what EPA would expect to occur normally.



*Image of the Gary Development Landfill wetland area along the Grand Calumet River.*

USEPA TO CONDUCT COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS  
GARY DEVELOPMENT LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE